

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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May 6, 2005
PR 05 - 59

ABC SUSPENDS MARKET'S LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SELLING DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

San Diego – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today suspended the liquor license of Mr. D's Liquor & Deli, 4101 Market Street in San Diego for 30 days, after clerks sold undercover officers drug paraphernalia.

The 30-day suspension will prohibit the store from selling any alcohol during that time period. The formal penalty was revocation of the license, with the revocation stayed for a period of one year, plus the 30-day suspension. If a similar violation occurs during the one-year stayed revocation, the license could be permanently revoked.

The market was one of five area ABC licensed stores that sold the drug paraphernalia during an undercover operation back in the fall of 2001. Action against the other four locations have been taken.

The undercover operation was the result of a tip from a local drug rehabilitation center. The rehab center is an anti-alcohol and drug coalition partner in San Diego.

The stores were selling what are known as "brown bags" which generally contain a glass tube and a brass scouring pad which filters the smoke and a lighter.

Under state law, it is illegal to sell this kind of "kit" to smoke drugs.

Media requiring more information about the suspension should contact ABC San Diego District Office Administrator Steve Ernst at (619) 525-4064.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright-McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.